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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

I.

FOSSIL FALLACIES.

"People who live in glass houses should not throw stones."

They are the only ones who may. The fact that men so cleverly excuse or justify their own weaknesses, is proof conclusive that they have no right to deal severely with those they chance to be free from. The same course of reasoning that mitigates their faults applies to others, and calls for charity and tolerance and liberality.

This new doctrine is the one to which we must come.

The gossips and critics and censors must preface their comments with an admission that they share the fault at which they strike. Else are they unfair, unjust, incompetent. Their very immunity and perfection disqualifies them.

The sentiment must prevail, that it is cowardly to throw stones that hurt and wound, when unable to understand or appreciate—when securely fortified behind the fortress of immunity.

This newer doctrine is the better one. When it prevails we shall all be wiser and happier, than in these days, when we are "censors of such vices as we are not tempted to commit, and satirists of such virtues as we are not allured to imitate."

"Contentment is better than riches."

That sounds like the despairing wail of a disappointed man. It is a patent medicine, intended for those who have tried for success and have failed. It is warranted to have the same soothing effect that the conclusion about the grapes had on the fox. If taken in sufficiently large doses it will make a man a helpless non-entity. It is a narcotic that does more harm than good. It puts to sleep the very ones who need waking.

The fact is, contentment is satisfied laziness. Those who better themselves and get the grapes do not think they are sour.

A true man is not necessarily discontented, but he is ever aspiring. He would do more—be more—get more.

He does not care for absolute contentment. The utmost he will admit is that contentment, with riches, is better than without them.

"Men were born to succeed, not fail."

Then a vast number of men do not serve the purpose for which they were born. Success is the exception—failure the rule. The retrospect is a picture of unfruitful effort. The contemplation of it should make us more active and earnest; but we take a good look at the picture and go right along accumulating—"nothing but leaves."

WALTER GREGORY.